7/25/71

PH(JNS),

Jim and his wife were here this p.m. and we had a fairly full and candid talk. It is not now and then was not as you thought on the Boggs matter, that I was getting after him. We were then in accord, we were today in accord on everything, and it is the situation, he is in the middle. His feelings about the Cook thing are identical with mine save for two things: he feels the stupidity, the irrelevancy about Ted Kennedy may be more hurtful than I originally did, and he says that Bud said before the appearance of the piece that he had asked to take a few things out. My reply is that he was preparing a defense. I am satisfied that, although he could say nothing, Jim feels the same way.

I told him quite candidly that no relationship can survive such a thing and that its effect among the critics will be further fractioning. He agrees. (Am I glad that Sylvia is in semi-seclusion for the summer!) He says simply nobody can do anything about it, and I fear that is the case.

However, on one thing I was pointed and specific: the next time there is any kind of bracketing of the committee and the Ray case I will explode and if it calls for a personal denunciation of Bud and the public means are available, I will use them. And I will. Long ago his partner conceded that this, entirely aside from the fact that it is completely false, is a conflict of interest comparable to Foreman's. Considering that Bud had nothing to do with getting Ray as a client, nothing to do with the investigation, and added to the legal work already done what was counterproductive and eliminated what was needed and done for him, it takes a special kind of unmitigated gall to tell Cook what he did (of course, Cook also knows better). I did most of the legal thinking, because it was not legal but logical and did almost all the research except in the law. That and the drafting of the legal documents Jim did. In the current brief, sone by Tennessee counsel, except on one point it all comes from my work, and I am content for it to be this way and not said. But I am not content for it to be Cook's way, and for that to be read into a court record some day. It can ruin everything, as this unfettered ego so utterly without accomplishment can also be. Hence, if it does not stop, doing something may be the only way to save the case. Thus, if I think it must be and can be done, I will try it. One of the bitter pills is that Bud has failed to reay the toll calls getting him his client cost me. But that merely makes it complete, for as Jim acknowledges, I got him his client, gave him his investihation, and prepared the defense, with Jim putting that into legal language. What better reason to attribute it to the committee and Bud's skill in moving at the right time? I only hope that nobody sends this to Stoner, for, as you'd never know from Cook, it is Stoner, <u>not</u> Bud, who took Foreman's deposition! Incredible? If he sees it, he will explode. And I don't think any Ray will be happy, either. Or should be.

Anyway, Jim knows that for me this is the end. I want all my material and correspondence back save for the spectro and what is needed for the Ray defense. I said within a reasonable time. I'll not handle any more suits through or with Bud. Jim is still anxious to be part of them, and that satisfied me. If he passes the bar, he can be my lawyer. If not, he can counsel with me in advance and perhaps in court while I act as my own lawyer. The problem now will be finding time to draft them. He is also interested in any you may file and will help to the degree he can. I again strongly encourage you to keep this between you and him, away from the committee. He will be moving the end of the week and I'll give you his new address when I have it. I forgot to get it today. If you write Bud, Jim will do the work, you'll think it is Bud, and this merely gives Bud a chance to mess it up and give his worthless, done-nothing committee a chance to claim credit for something else when every blurb it gets hurts us all and reduces media credibility further.

Sincerely,